

**Boston Spa Neighbourhood Planning Advisory Group (NPAG)
Meeting**

Thursday 5th September 2024 at 6.30pm
Committee Room, Boston Spa Village Hall, 199 High Street, Boston Spa, LS23 6AA

Present: Cllr Gail Bowen (Chair); David Faraday; Keith Jackson, Deborah Marshall.
Andy Colledge arrived at 19:04

Apologies: Cllr Keith Blake, Tomas Johnson (LCC).

Absent: Cllr Penny Stables.

DRAFT MINUTES

1.	Apologies for absence
	Apologies had been received from Cllr Blake and Tomas Johnson.
	Resolved: That the apologies be accepted.
2.	Public Open Forum
	There were no members of the public in attendance.
3.	To confirm the minutes from the 27th June meeting and note any actions delivered
	Resolved: That the minutes from 27 th June meeting be approved.
4.	To review any feedback from the Village Festival NP event
	Cllr Bowen, Andy Colledge and David Faraday assisted with the NP stall at Party in the Park on Saturday 13 th July. Despite the poor weather the stall was well attended by visitors. The ideas and visuals provided by St Mary's Primary School pupils generated a lot of feedback as residents identified their priorities for the future of Boston Spa. This final event brings the public consultation period to its conclusion and NPAG now has a mandate to review the existing Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Bowen thanked everyone for their involvement.
	Resolved: That the group proceed to review the Neighbourhood Plan.
5.	Continued from last meeting, review of objectives from current Neighbourhood Plan – paper provided by Keith Jackson.
	Keith Jackson circulated his report which reviews the two existing objectives: 4 – To preserve existing and promote an increase in green spaces and provide better access to the riverside as a key feature of the village. This has been achieved across new developments, such as Church Fields and BNG is being addressed in the current application for the Church Street/Hollydene Nurseries development. New priorities should be to increase the access to the riverside and create wildlife corridors throughout the village. The boundaries of the village also need to be protected and possible sites to be allocated as green space would include the area to the east of Gasworks Lane and the private

	<p>allotments site to the east of the village. David Faraday expressed the importance of new developments incorporating a dedicated green space in line with National Policy. The water quality of the river is also an ongoing concern.</p> <p>8 – To promote and encourage renewable energy generation using low carbon technologies. This objective has not been fulfilled since the original NP due to a number of factors. Thought now needs be given to new technologies such as air source heat pumps and how these will affect the visual landscape and the conservation area. Ground source heat pumps are now being implemented in new developments and areas in Boston Spa where this could be introduced were considered. The bungalows at Deepdale which consist of both social and privately owned housing are poorly insulated and would benefit from such a scheme. With adequate open space at its centre, it would also provide an appropriate site for the installation.</p> <p>At the end of the discussion, Cllr Bowen said she would circulate the reviews of the other objectives completed by David Faraday, Andy Colledge and Keith Blake.</p>
6.	Moving to the next stage of the NP - discussion
	<p>Cllr Bowen stated that the objectives and topics in the existing neighbourhood plan are not in line and should be conflated in the revised plan. It was proposed that the existing 8 objectives be distilled into 5 as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote, encourage and facilitate renewable energy solutions and make Boston Spa a more sustainable place. This encompasses existing objective 8 and consultation objective 1. 2. Retain the special character of Boston Spa and manage new development so that it meets current and future needs. This encompasses existing objectives 1 and 2 and consultation objective 2. 3. Work with others to address weaknesses in public transport and consider other ways that Boston Spa can be more and better connected. This encompasses existing objectives 6 and 7 and part of consultation objective 3. 4. Promote, protect and further develop green spaces and wildlife habitats and make Boston Spa an even better, safer, healthier place to live. This encompasses existing objectives 4 and 5, and part of consultation objective 4. 5. Preserve the distinctive and diverse character of Boston Spa so that it an even better place to do business, and support local employment, socialising, shopping and enjoyment. This encompasses existing objectives 3 and consultation objective 5.

	The objectives of the revised plan also need to include their own evidence base to demonstrate that these are the key areas that have been supported by residents during the public consultations. Cllr Bowen said she would produce a written report which she would circulate for discussion and refinement at the next meeting.
7.	Neighbourhood Planning in a Climate Emergency – implications for our work. https://search.app/WHc5hosuwVUhS9ve7
	Keith Jackson circulated the link to the above document prior to the meeting. With Leeds City Council having declared a climate emergency, this is a key area for consideration. Keith expressed the importance of the involvement of other key stakeholders and voluntary groups in the village in developing a greener, more sustainable community. Boston Spa Green Group has already made a huge contribution through various projects and as CIO, they can now apply for grant funding. Collaboration is key, particularly if Boston Spa is to explore a community energy project.
8.	To review any correspondence received
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clerk circulated the West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan Vision and Objectives survey. Group members were asked to submit any feedback so that a consolidated response can be provided by the Parish Council. • Cllr Bowen said she had received correspondence from a local business owner regarding the creation of a local business hub where people who work from home can have a rented desk. The group welcomed such a facility but requested that it be cross-generational so that it can also be used by young people as a place to study and socialise.
9.	To consider any urgent items or items for the next meeting
	Cllr Bowen said that Anne Watts, a new Parish Councillor will be joining NPAG in October. Working groups will need to be created to address the 5 revised objectives if accepted. Keith Jackson recommended that the group review the sustainability test included in the appendices of the existing NP.
10.	To confirm the date(s) of the next meeting
	Resolved: That the date of the next meeting be Monday 14 th October at 7.30pm in the Lantern Room.
	With no further business the meeting was declared closed at 20:03.